

None Eager to Help

A few years ago, a cable television program decided to test the compassion of the people in the city where the program originated.

An actor was hired to fake a fainting spell on a busy street corner and lie “unconscious” on the ground until someone came to his aid. Out-of-the-way cameras recorded the reactions of those who passed by.

Literally hundreds of people came within inches of the man – who, it should be noted, did not have the appearance of a street person. Most passersby gave him a quick glance and kept walking. Some took a longer look, but they also kept walking.

No one wanted to get involved; not even by notifying a policeman who was standing on the next corner. Eventually, the actor revived himself, since no one came to his aid.



A similar story is told in the Bible in Luke 10:30-37. A man was beaten and left for dead by robbers. Both a priest and a Levite saw him lying in the ditch, but crossed the road to avoid him. Then a Samaritan, one whom the Jews despised, stopped, bandaged the victim's wounds, took him to an inn, and paid his expenses.

The lesson? It is presumptuous for us to pray that God will meet our needs if we are unwilling to extend ourselves to meet the needs of others.

In the mission we are called to do in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, we have that opportunity every day.

And I thank our Lord for our associates who have answered His call to be so involved.

– Beecher Hunter